Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for automatically distributing a software update to a network of devices controlled by an organization, the method comprising:

receiving application and system information from one or more inoculation clients installed on said devices, said receiving performed via peer-to-peer communication;

comparing said application and system information with application and version information in a global update repository to determine if an update exists for a corresponding application controlled by an inoculation client, the global update repository including updates from multiple application manufacturers;

queueing said update if an update exists for an application controlled by an inoculation client;

receiving a communication from said corresponding inoculation client checking for available distribution jobs; and

automatically transmitting said update to said corresponding inoculation client in response to said receiving a communication if an update exists for an application controlled by said corresponding inoculation client.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

configuring an inoculation server distributed across one or more of the devices; and

performing an initial connection between said inoculation server and said global update repository.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said application and system information includes operating system information and version.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said application and system information includes installed software applications and versions.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said application and system information includes network information.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said application and system information is received in Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said queuing said update includes linking said update package and said corresponding application in a database table.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the global update repository is a centralized repository that manages operating systems and software to be delivered to inoculation servers.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, therein said global update repository mines, retrieves, and archives external update information.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said external update information is mined and retrieved from external security websites.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said global update repository uses web spiders.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said comparing includes utilizing an HTTP GET or POST command.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said external update information contains a vendor type, said vendor type being automatic download and release, automatic download and manually confirm release, or manually download and confirm.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said comparing is performed by an inventory control engine.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said queuing is performed by a distribution engine.

16 - 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for automatically distributing a software update to a network of devices controlled by an organization, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving application and system information from one or more inoculation clients installed on said devices, said receiving performed via peer-to-peer communication;

means for comparing said application and system information with application and version information in a global update repository to determine if an update exists for a corresponding application controlled by an inoculation client, the global update repository including updates from multiple application manufacturers;

means for queueing said update if an update exists for an application controlled by an inoculation client;

means for receiving a communication from said corresponding inoculation client checking for available distribution jobs; and

means for automatically transmitting said update to said corresponding inoculation client in response to said receiving a communication if an update exists for an application controlled by said corresponding inoculation client.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:

means for configuring an inoculation server distributed across one or more of the devices; and

means for performing an initial connection between said inoculation server and said global update repository.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said application and system information includes operating system information and version.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said application and system information includes installed software applications and versions.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said application and system information includes network information.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said application and system information is received in Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said queuing said update includes linking said update package and said corresponding application in a database table.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the global update repository is a centralized repository that manages operating systems and software to be delivered to inoculation servers.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, therein said global update repository mines, retrieves, and archives external update information.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said external update information is mined and retrieved from external security websites.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said global update repository uses web spiders.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said means for comparing includes means for utilizing an HTTP GET or POST command.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said external update information contains a vendor type, said vendor type being automatic download and release, automatic download and manually confirm release, or manually download and confirm.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said means for comparing is an inventory control engine.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said means for queuing is a distribution engine.

35. (Previously Presented) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for automatically distributing a software update to a network of devices controlled by an organization, the method comprising:

receiving application and system information from one or more inoculation clients installed on said devices, said receiving performed via peer-to-peer communication;

comparing said application and system information with application and version information in a global update repository to determine if an update exists for a corresponding application controlled by an inoculation client, the global update repository including updates from multiple application manufacturers;

queueing said update if an update exists for an application controlled by an inoculation client;

receiving a communication from said corresponding inoculation client checking for available distribution jobs; and

automatically transmitting said update to said corresponding inoculation client in response to said receiving a communication if an update exists for an application controlled by said corresponding inoculation client.